

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-511 Construction Date: Circa 1880

Name: John W. Albright Property

Location: 8664 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

Private Ownership / Present use: Agriculture, Private Residence / Occupied / Condition: Excellent / Restricted Access

Description:

The John W. Albright Property is a 2-story, 6-bay vernacular residence located on the north side of Port Tobacco Road in the La Plata vicinity, Charles County. Constructed circa 1880, the property consists of the house, three sheds, a machine shed, a tobacco barn and stable. The original section of the main house is a 2-story 3-bay side-gable block with center gable, rear ell and hipped roof front porch. A 2-story shed roof addition is located at the intersection of the main block and rear ell, and a 1½-story addition is located on the north elevation of the rear ell. In 1995, a large 2-story 3-bay addition was constructed on the east side of the original section, creating the present 6-bay wide structure. During the remodeling, the front porch of the original section was extended to wrap around to the west side elevation.

Significance:

The house on the John W. Albright Property is a traditional building form which easily adapted to the 'Victorian era' styling popular during its period of construction. The house is an example of an I-house. The standard I-house is one room deep and two stories tall with three to five openings on each story. Usually, an I-house has a one-story porch running the length or nearly the length of the long side. On the interior, a central hall separates the two rooms on the first floor; the second floor contains either two or four sleeping chambers. Due to the narrowness of the main core, many I-houses have kitchen wings to the rear. Initially, stone masonry construction was used but by the mid-nineteenth century, as pre-cut lumber became increasingly available, frame construction became the norm. During the Victorian period, pre-cut detailing or a two-tiered porch was commonly grafted onto the traditional I-house (Gowans 1992, 55-6). Trends in architecture during the period of construction of the John W. Albright Property in Charles County reflect the proliferation of railroad-related development and the expansion of communities. Victorian styles and plans, possessing projecting bays, towers, wrap-around porches, and ornate decorative trim became more popular as machine-produced trim became widely available and easily shipped on the railroad (Lavoie 1993:24-25). The significance of the John W. Albright Property, as a representation of the prolific late-nineteenth century farmstead with I-house, has been greatly diminished due to a loss of integrity resulting from remodeling in 1995. The alterations drastically altered the building's form and materials.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John W. Albrittain Property (Preferred)

and/or common Part of Plenty

2. Location

street & number : 8664 Port Tobacco Road

☐ not for publication

city, town ☒ vicinity of La Plata

congressional district

state Maryland

county Charles

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered
☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Henry B. Albrittain Jr.

street & number 8664 Port Tobacco Road

telephone no.:

city, town La Plata

state and zip code MD 20646

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse, Land Records Office

liber 1728

street & number Charles Street

folio 340

city, town La Plata

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. CH-511

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date of move _____

Resource Count: 7

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John W. Albright Property is a 2-story, 6-bay vernacular residence located on the north side of Port Tobacco Road in the La Plata vicinity, Charles County. Constructed circa 1880, the property consists of the house, three sheds, a machine shed, a tobacco barn and stable. The original section of the main house is a 2-story 3-bay side-gable block with a center gable, rear ell and hipped roof front porch. A 2-story shed roof addition is located at the intersection of the main block and rear ell, and a 1½-story addition is located on the north elevation of the rear ell. In 1995, a large 2-story 3-bay addition was constructed on the east side of the original section, creating the present 6-bay wide structure. During the remodeling, the front porch of the original section was extended to wrap around to the west side elevation.

The structure is of wood-frame construction with a brick foundation, vinyl siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The windows have been replaced with vinyl double-hung units with fixed vinyl shutters. The porch on the front elevation of the original section has a hipped roof supported by turned wood posts on concrete piers. All of the porch materials were replaced during the remodeling. The house has five chimneys. The first two chimneys have corbelled tops and are located within the interior of the original section. An interior brick chimney is located at the north gable end of the rear ell, while a chimney covered with vinyl siding is located on the rear shed roof addition. The fifth chimney is a modern exterior brick chimney located on the east gable end of the new addition.

The south (front) elevation of the original section has a central entry consisting of a 4-light wood-panel door with a 3-light transom and 2-light sidelights. The entry is flanked by vinyl 6/6 double-hung windows, while the second story has three windows vertically aligned over the first story openings. The centered gable has a half-round window with 2-lights. The south elevation of the 3-bay addition has a recessed entrance in the west bay. The entry is a 9-light vinyl door. The two remaining bays of the first story are vinyl 8/8 double-hung windows. The second story of the addition has three gable dormers with vinyl 8/8 double-hung windows.

The 1-story porch of the front elevation wraps around to the west elevation. The first story of the west elevation has a modern pair of 15-light French doors on the original section. The second story has a single 6/6 double-hung window. The west elevation of the rear ell has a vinyl 1/1 double-hung window on the first story and an original wood 6/6 double-hung window on the second story. The west elevation of the 1½-story addition to the rear ell has a wood 4/4 double-hung window on the first story and a 4-light casement window on the loft level.

The north (rear) elevation of the original section has a vinyl double-hung window on both the first and second stories. The rear elevation of the 2-story shed roof addition has a door on the first story and a vinyl double-hung window on the second story. The rear elevation of the rear ell has no fenestration, while the 1½-story addition to the rear ell has a pair of vinyl 1/1 double-hung windows. The rear elevation of the modern addition has a pair of single-light French doors, a cantilevered 3-sided bay window, a recessed entrance with a 6-light door, and a small vinyl 1/1 double-hung window on the first story. The second story has two small vinyl 1/1 double-hung windows and a cantilevered 3-sided bay window.

The east elevation of the house consists entirely of the modern addition, the focal point of which is a wide exterior brick chimney. The first story has a pair of vinyl 1/1 double-hung windows, while the second story has a recessed pair of French doors.

There are six outbuildings associated with this property. The first three outbuildings are wood-frame sheds constructed circa 1920. The first shed has a gable roof and is covered by asbestos shingle siding, while the second and third sheds have shed roofs and vertical wood siding. Located north of the sheds is a gable roof machine shed with a standing-seam metal roof, vertical wood siding and concrete piers. Constructed circa 1920, the machine shed has four open bays on the south elevation. Located directly north of the machine shed is a wood-frame tobacco barn with a front-gable orientation. The barn has a metal roof, vertical wood siding and concrete piers. Northwest of the tobacco barn is a 2-story stable with hay loft. The stable has a side-gable metal roof, vertical wood siding and concrete pier supports.

8. Significance

Survey No. CH-511

Period	Areas of Significance -- Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1880, 1995

Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The house on the John W. Albright Property was constructed on a 73-hectare (179.75-acre) part of a tract known as 'Plenty' purchased from Major William B. Matthews in 1879 for \$5392.50. The transaction was mentioned in the *Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser* of October 1879 adding that the land was purchased for \$30 an acre. The land was divided by the public road leading from Port Tobacco to Bryantown (Port Tobacco Road). The southern portion contained 41 hectares (101 acres), while the northern half upon which the house was constructed contained 32 hectares (78 acres). John W. Albright died in 1883 and a portion of the property known as lots 4 and 10 passed by will to his son, John W. Albright, Jr. The lots totaled 18 hectares (44 acres). Upon John W. Albright Jr.'s death in 1919, the house and land passed to his wife Mary, who survived until 1946. In 1954, sole ownership of the house and land was granted to Henry B. Albright. At that time, the property contained a 12-hectare (30-acre) tract containing the house, 20 hectares (50 acres) south of Port Tobacco Road, and 7 hectares (17 acres) of woodland adjacent to the 20 hectare (50 acre) tract. The parcel containing the house was bounded on the south by Port Tobacco Road (MD 6), on the west by Valley Road, on the north by the Hillen Morgan farm and the Stickle farm known as "Dolly Farm" and on the east by the Shelton Land or Southern Maryland Realty Land. In 1986, the house and lot known as Lot #1 in Albright Estates passed to the current owner, Henry B. Albright, Jr. The parcel now contains 1.4 hectares (3.58 acres).

The house on the John W. Albright Property is a traditional building form which easily adapted to the 'Victorian era' styling popular during its period of construction. The house is an example of an I-house. The standard I-house is one room deep and two stories tall with three to five openings on each story. From the front, an I-house is often indistinguishable from a Georgian house. The gable view, however, reveals the greater depth of the Georgian house. Chimneys are located on the interior of the gable ends, however, external chimneys are characteristic in the Chesapeake region. Usually, an I-house has a one-story porch running the length or nearly the length of the long side. On the interior, a central hall separates the two rooms on the first floor; the second floor contains either two or four sleeping chambers. Due to the narrowness of the main core, many I-houses have kitchen wings to the rear. Initially, stone masonry construction was used but by the mid-nineteenth century, as pre-cut lumber became increasingly available, frame construction became the norm. During the Victorian period, pre-cut detailing or a two-tiered porch was commonly grafted onto the traditional I-house (Gowans 1992, 55-6).

Trends in architecture during this period in Charles County reflect the proliferation of railroad-related development and the expansion of communities. Victorian styles and plans, possessing projecting bays, towers, wrap-around porches, and ornate decorative trim became more popular as machine-produced trim became widely available and easily shipped on the railroad (Lavoie 1993, 24-25).

The significance of the John W. Albright Property, as a representative of a late nineteenth century farmstead with I-house, has been greatly diminished due to a loss of integrity resulting from remodeling in 1995. The alterations drastically altered the building's form and materials.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: John W. Albright Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-511

ADDRESS: 8664 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

The John W. Albright Property, constructed circa 1880, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property no longer possesses integrity to convey National Register significance. It is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as alterations conducted in 1995 have severely altered the historic appearance of the house. A large 2-story addition was added to the east elevation, the entire building was covered with vinyl siding, all of the principal windows were replaced and the front porch was rebuilt with new materials and extended onto the side elevation. Finally, as no archaeological investigation has been conducted, the eligibility of the property under Criterion D cannot be assessed at this time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility Not Recommended XX

Comments:

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature]

Date: 10/18/95

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature]

Date: 10/19/99

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CH-511

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Port Tobacco, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tim Tamburrino

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company date January 1999

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412 telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: John W. Albright Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-511

ADDRESS: 8664 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Gowans, Alan. 1992. Styles and Types of North American Architecture. New York: Harper Collins.

Land Records Office of Charles County, La Plata, Maryland.

Lavoie, Catherine C. 1993. "Architecture: From Tidewater to Modern." In M-NCPPC, *Landmarks of Prince George's County, Maryland*, 20-25.

Maryland Historical Trust. 1980. Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert County, Charles County and St. Mary's County. Annapolis, MD: Maryland Historical Trust.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 1984. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Rifkind, Carole. 1980. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: Signet Press.

Rivoire, J. Richard. 1990. Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, MD: Southern Maryland Studies Center.

United States Geological Survey [USGS]. 1968. *Port Tobacco, MD Quadrangle*. 7.5 minute series. Rev. 1982. Washington, D.C.: USGS.

Wearmouth, Roberta J. Abstracts From the Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

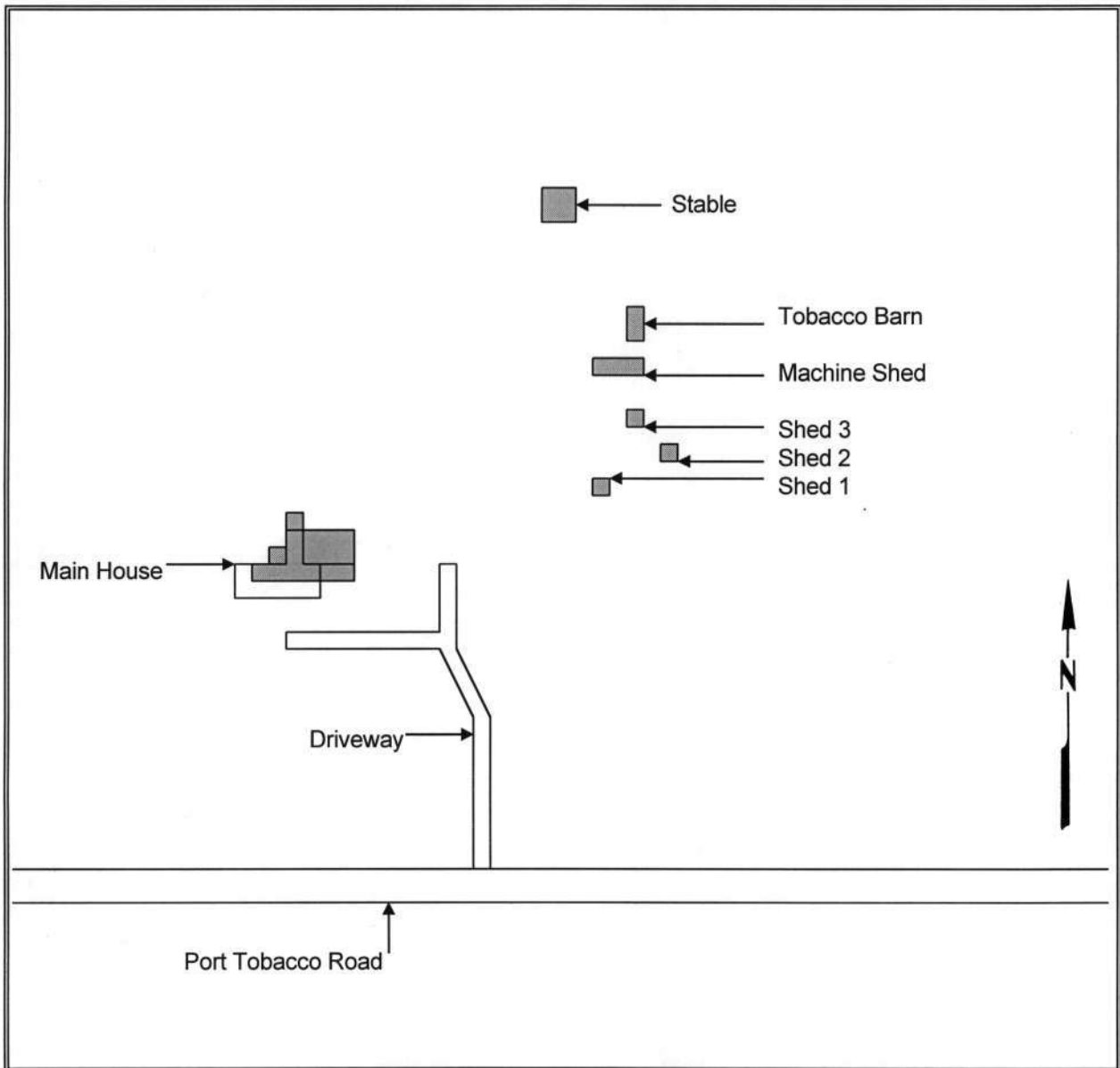
RESOURCE NAME: John W. Albright Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-511

ADDRESS: 8664 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: John W. Albright Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-511

ADDRESS: 8664 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Rural

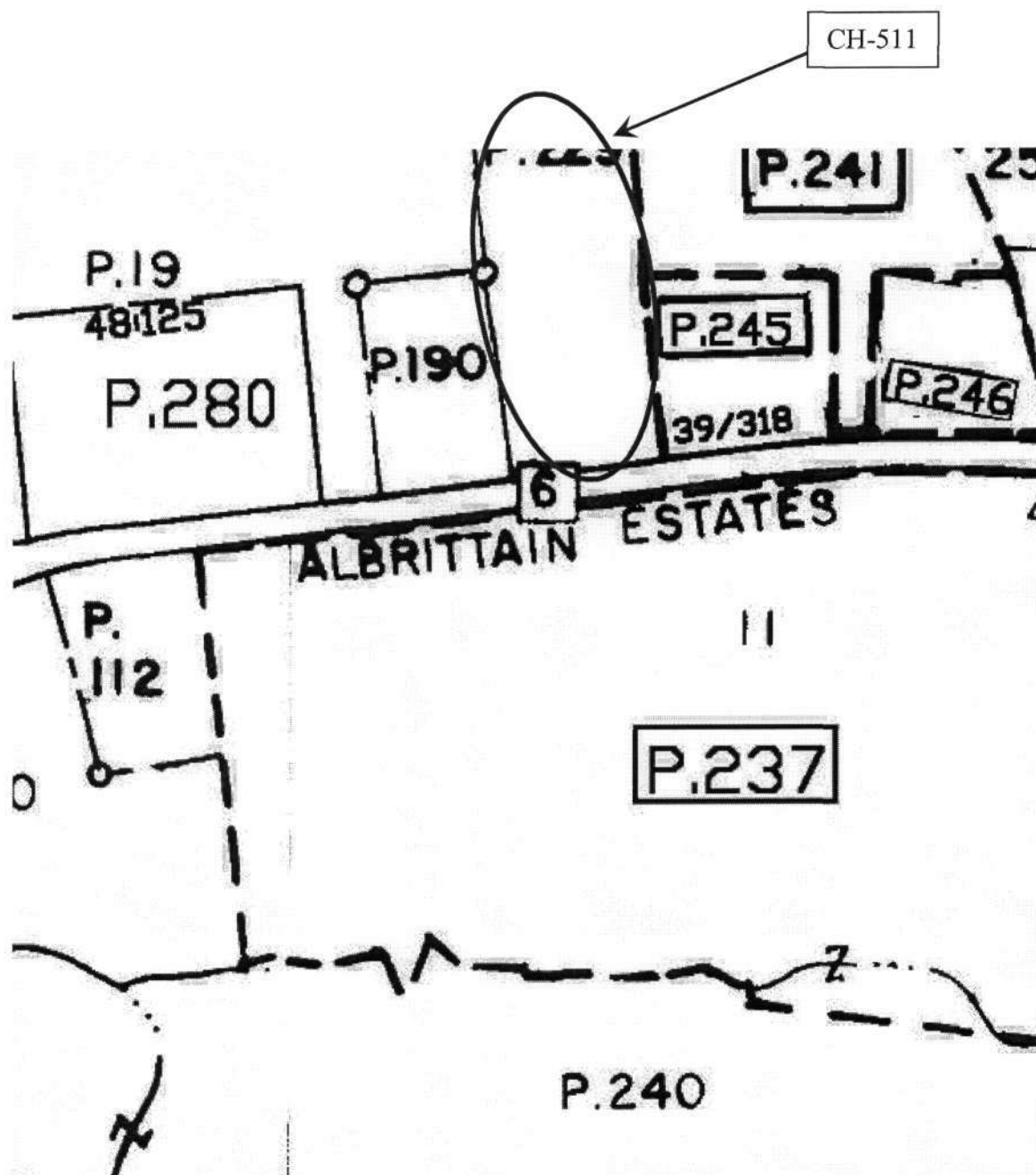
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Private Residence

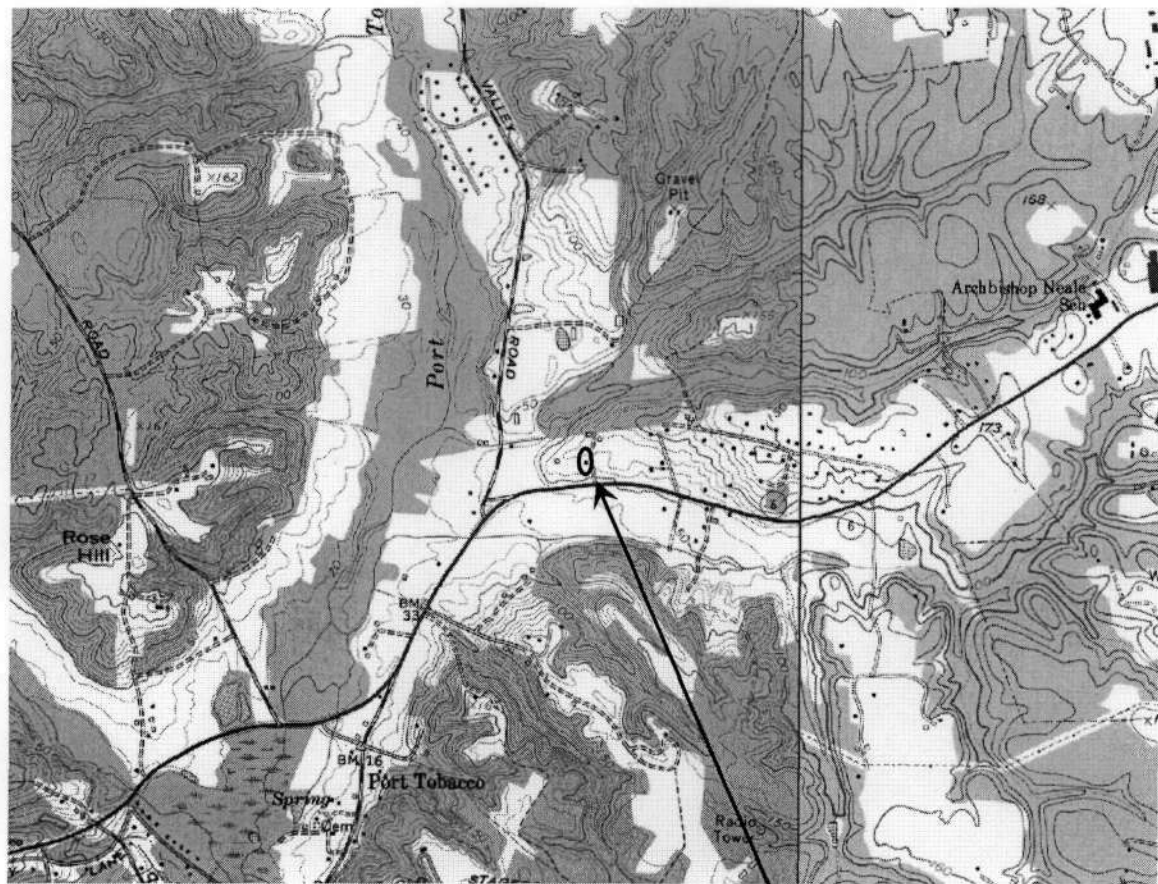
Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

CH-511
John W. Albrittain Property
Tax Map 43 Parcel 229

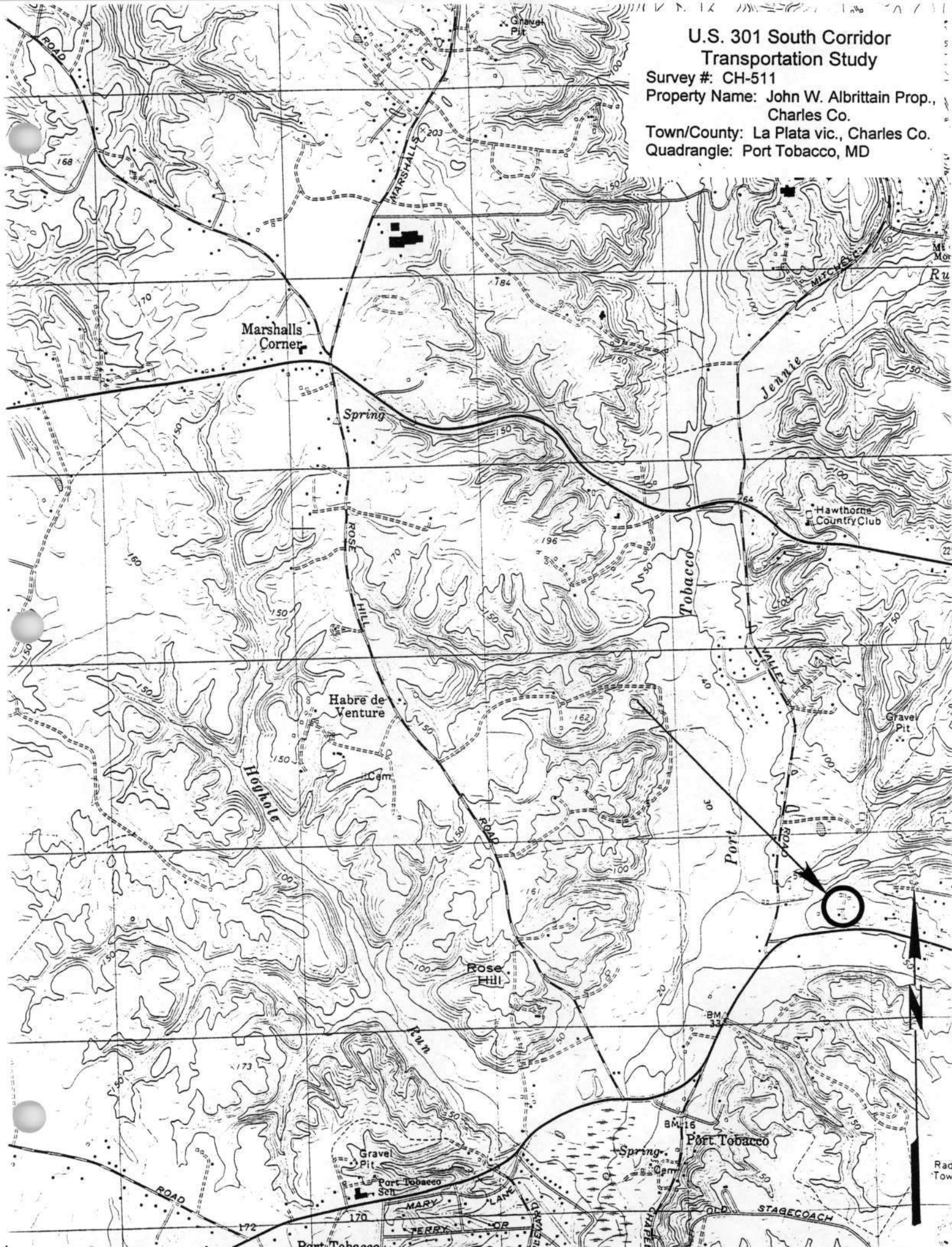


CH-511
John W. Albright House
8664 Port Tobacco Rd.
La Plata
Port Tobacco Quad.
Charles Co.



CH-511

Town/County: La Plata vic., Charles Co.
Quadrangle: Port Tobacco, MD





1) CH - 511

2) John W Albrightain House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) HOUSE - Front Elevation View NW

8) 1 of 17



1) CH-511

2) John W. Albrittain House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MDSHPO

7) House - SW Corner View NE

8) 2 of 17



1) CH-571

2) John W. Albrittain House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) House - West Elevation - View E

8) 3 of 17



1) CH- 511

2) John W. Albright House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) House - Rear Elevation - View S

8) 4 of 17



1) CH-511

2) John W. Albrittain House, 8664 Post Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1199

6) MD SHPO

7) House. East Elevation. View W

8) 5 of 17



1) CH-511

2) John W. Albrittain House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) Shed #1 - View NE

8) 6 of 17



1) CH-511

2) John W. Albrightain House, ⁸⁶⁶⁴ Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1199

6) MD SHPO

7) Shed #1 - View SW

8) 786 17



1) CH-5"

2) John W. Albrightain House, ⁸⁶⁶⁴ Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) Shed #2 - View NE

8) 8 of 17



1) CH-511

2) John W. Albright House, ⁸⁶⁶⁴ Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) Shed #2 - View SW

8) 9 of 17



1) CH - 5"

2) John W. Albright House, ⁸⁶⁶⁴ Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) Shed #3 - View NW

8) 10 of 17



1) CH-511

2) John W. Albrittain House, ⁸⁶⁶⁴ Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) Shed #3 - View SE

8) 11 of 17



1) CH - 511

2) John W. Albright House, Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) Machine Shed - View NE

8) 12 of 17



1) CH - 511

2) John W. Albrightain House, ⁸⁶⁶⁴ Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1199

6) MD SHPO

7) Machine Shed - View SE

8) 13 of 17



1) CH- 5 11

2) John W. Albrittain House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1199

6) MD SHPO

7) Tobacco Barn - View NE

8) 14 86 17



DCH-511

2) John W. Albrittain House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1999

6) MD SHPO

7) Tobacco Barn - View SE

8) 15 of 17



1) CH - 511

2) John W. Albright House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road

3) Charles County, MD

4) Tim Tamburrino

5) 1/99

6) MD SHPO

7) Stable - View N

8) 16 of 17



- 1) CH-511
- 2) John W. Albrittain House, 8664 Port Tobacco Road
- 3) Charles County, MD
- 4) Tim Tamburrino
- 5) 1199
- 6) MD SHPO
- 7) Stable-View E
- 8) 17 of 17